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PATENT
IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

E.A.9.
3/14/03

In re application of: Suguru ITO et al.

5/a

Serial No.: Not Yet Assigned
(§ 371 of international application No. PCT/JP00/07160)

Filed: April 15, 2002

For: RUBBER, RUBBER COMPOSITION, AND CROSSLINKED OBJECT

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

April 15, 2002

Sir:

Prior to the calculation of the filing fees of the above application, please amend the application as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend claims 4-10 as follows:

4. (Amended) The nitrile group-containing highly saturated copolymer rubber according to claim 1, wherein the sum of monomer units (c) and monomer units (d) is in the range of 50 to 80% by weight.

5. (Amended) The nitrile group-containing highly saturated copolymer rubber according to claim 1, wherein the sum of monomer units (c) and monomer units (d) is in the range of 55 to 75% by weight.